

2003-04 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Senate Committee on
Health, Children,
Families, Aging and
Long Term Care
(SC-HCFALTC)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ 03hr_sb0243b_pt02

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

Sent Jack in
on 9/5/03

Cover sheet for LRB 3090\1

Relating to: provision of dental hygiene services to Medical Assistance recipients by a
volunteer health care provider

List of senators and Representatives

Please place in order of importance to bill authorship.

Sept. 2003

Carol -
I spoke with Dr. Swanson
about the tri-county dental
clinic. He asked that I
express his thanks & appreciation
to you for introducing this
bill. -Jennifer

Senators:

Roessler ~

__Brown, +

__Carpenter, +

__Chvala, +

__Darling +

__Decker +

__Ellis +

__Fitzgerald +

__Harsdorf +

__Lassa +

__Lazich +

__Moore +

__Risser +

__Robson +

__Schultz +

__Zien +

Representatives:

__Albers <

__Berceau =

__Bies <

__Coggs -

__Friske ~

__Gottlieb ~

__Gronemus —

__Grothmen —

__Gunderson ✓

__Hahn —

Weller

Kanger

__ Hundertmark ✓
__ Jenson ✓
__ Kaufert ✓
__ Krawczyk ✓
__ Kreibich ✓
__ Ladwig ✓
__ Lehman, John ✓
__ Lehman, Michael ✓
__ Loeffelholz ✓
__ Lothian ✓
__ McCormick ✓
__ Miller ✓
__ Musser ✓
__ Nass ✓
__ Ott ✓
__ Owens ✓
__ Petrowski ✓
__ Pettis ✓
__ Plouff ✓
__ Rhoades ✓
__ Seratti ✓
__ Staskunas ✓
__ VanRoy ✓
__ Vrakas ✓
__ Wood ✓
__ Young ✓
__ Taylor ✓

5H
1711 Wilson Avenue
Oshkosh, WI 54901

SEP 16 2003

September 8, 2003

Carol A. Roessler
Room 130 South
State Capital
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Honorable Roessler:

On behalf on the low income families, I would like to address the dental care issue to your attention. In the past several weeks, I have been helping many low income families to find a dentist for them, as a volunteer, in the Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, Neenah, Menasha and Appleton areas. However, I could not find any dental clinics for these families because they have only Medical Assistance (Forward Card). I do not understand why no dental clinics accepting the forward cards. I think this problem may occur through out the entire state.

Since the economy is slow, these low income families are suffered enough. They lost their jobs and health insurance. They could not find any new jobs. In addition, they do not have enough foods to put on the table. Some families could not pay their monthly rent. Now they are facing the dental care issue. This is another stress for them. Children cannot check up their teeth before attending school and other cannot visit a dentist for a bad tooth and/or gum disease.

I hope you will have a solution to this problem. Please respond me back as soon as you can, so I can better assist the low income families. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Khou Xiong

**Carol Roessler**
STATE SENATOR

September 10, 2003

Khou Xiong
1711 Wilson Ave.
Oshkosh WI, 54901

Dear Khou,

Thank you for your contact relating to dental care access.

Insufficient availability of dental care for low-income individuals is a problem that has faced Wisconsin for many years. I am very aware of the need in this area and have authored Senate Bill 243 in an effort to relieve the stress of this situation. This bill will increase the opportunities available for low-income patients to receive dental care by expanding the definition of "volunteer healthcare provider" to include dental hygienists. In addition the bill also authorizes dentists and dental hygienists, while covered under the states liability policy, to provide services to Medical Assistance recipients. Currently, state malpractice insurance is offered for dentists who volunteer their services to low-income uninsured patients not including Medical Assistance recipients.

This bill, if passed, will directly affect many clinics statewide including a new clinic in the Fox Valley. The Tri-County Community Dental Clinic is currently under construction and when complete will serve low-income individuals in Calumet, Outagamie, and Winnebago Counties. It is anticipated that this clinic will serve up to 30,000 low-income patients.

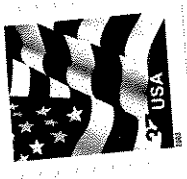
I have attached a list of dentists who are certified to serve Medical Assistance recipients in the Fox Valley. It may be useful in looking for a dentist for the families that you have been working with. Thank you again for sharing your views. Please feel free to contact me further with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol".

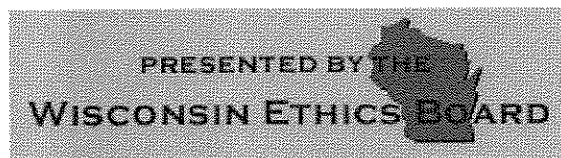
CAROL ROESSLER
State Senator
18th Senate District

CR:/jh S:\DOCS\Jennifer\8-19-03 def.marriage.supp.doc



Khon Xiong
1711 Wilson Avenue
Oshkosh, WI 54901

- ▶ Home
- ▶ Lobbying in Wisconsin
- ▶ Organizations employing lobbyists
- ▶ Lobbyists



as of Friday, September 12, 2003

2003-2004 legislative session

Legislative bills and resolutions

(search for another legislative bill or resolution at the bottom of this page)

Text, Sponsors and Analysis
Status and Fiscal Estimate
Lobbying Effort on this item

Senate Bill 243

provision of dental and dental hygiene services to Medical Assistance recipients by a volunteer health care provider. (FE)

No organization has reported lobbying activity on Senate Bill 243 2003 Regular Session.

Select a legislative proposal and click "go"

House

Assembly
Senate

Proposal Type

Bill
Joint Resolution
Resolution

Proposal Number

243 (enter
proposal number)

Legislative Session

2003 Regular Session

Go

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Rose, Laura
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2003 3:17 PM
To: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: RE: Legislative intent on SB 243

Jennifer, I agree with you.

Laura

-----Original Message-----

From: Halbur, Jennifer
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2003 2:22 PM
To: Rose, Laura
Subject: FW: Legislative intent on SB 243

Laura,

Here is Gary Radloff's concern.

I think the bill does pull the dental hygienists into the current law provisions relating to serving low-income people... by including dental hygienists in the definition of "volunteer health care provider." Gary is not sure that this covers it.

What do you think?

Thanks!

Jennifer

-----Original Message-----

From: Radloff, Gary
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2003 1:40 PM
To: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: RE: Legislative intent on SB 243

I hope that I am not splitting hairs. The analysis by the LRB states current law covers "low-income persons who are uninsured and are not recipients of MA" but that does not currently apply to dental hygienists currently. It is my understanding you would have to extend that in your bill to hygienists. The bill does not do that unless I am misreading the bill. Can you call Becky Tradewell to clarify? Thank you, Gary

>>> Halbur, Jennifer 09/15/03 12:43PM >>>
Gary I just called but you stepped out.

The intent is to provide malpractice insurance to dentists and dental hygienists who volunteer their time to provide services to Medicaid patients. The goal is to provide coverage to retired dentists who would like to volunteer their services but are reluctant due to lack of malpractice coverage. Current law does not allow for state coverage of a dentist who volunteers time to serve Medicaid patients.

Hopefully I haven't confused you further!

-----Original Message-----

From: Radloff, Gary
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2003 12:19 PM
To: Halbur, Jennifer

Cc: Kennedy, Debora
Subject: Legislative intent on SB 243

Hello Jennifer and Debora:

I am seeking some clarification on Senate Bill 243.

Is it the intent of the bill to make clear in the statutes that dental hygienists will be covered for their malpractice insurance if serving the uninsured and underinsured patients? Does it state that in the bill?

or does this protection only apply to hygienists treating Medicaid patients?

It is not clear to me as I read the actual bill language. Feel free to call me at 266-3262 if necessary.

Gary Radloff
Legislative Liaison
DHFS
608.266.3262

WISCONSIN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, INC.



September 16, 2003

To: Members, Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care

From: Eric Borgerding, Senior Vice President
Bill Bazan, V.P., Metro Milwaukee

Re: Senate Bill 243: Volunteer Health Care Provider Program & Access to Dental Care

WHA urges your support of SB 243, which includes dental hygienists in the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program, and revises the participation rules for dentists. By providing state malpractice coverage to hygienists and eliminating red tape, SB 243 should encourage more dental professionals to provide services to uninsured or underinsured patients in community based clinics throughout Wisconsin. Increased availability of services is crucial because far too many of our state's low-income residents cannot get dental care today.

Wisconsin is facing a very real dental access crisis. By default, hospitals are fast becoming the safety net for low-income individuals without access to appropriate dental care. More than 22,000 patients a year seek emergency room treatment for dental diseases that are almost entirely preventable such as tooth decay and abscesses. There is no shortage of stories from emergency room personnel across Wisconsin - in rural and urban areas alike - about patients, young and old, in great pain due to a lack of dental care. The annual price tag for this preventable emergency care: \$6 million and rising. Footing the bill are government programs - at a much higher price than is necessary - and those with private insurance.

The suffering caused by a dire lack of dental care, and dentists and dental hygienists unwilling to see the uninsured, underinsured and Medicaid/BadgerCare patients, must end. SB 243 will not put an end to the access crisis, but WHA is hopeful it will persuade more dentists and dental hygienists to volunteer their services.

For additional information, please contact Eric Borgerding at (608) 274-1820 or Bill Bazan at (414) 431-0105.

Senate Health Committee
Testimony on 2003 Senate Bill 243
Tuesday, September 16, 2003
Room 400 Southeast
State Capitol

Dr. Tim Brown, General Dentist – Appleton

Good morning, Chairperson Roessler and members of the Senate Health Committee. I would like to thank you for the opportunity this morning to testify in support of Senate Bill 243. My name is Tim Brown and I'm a general dentist who works and lives in the Appleton area. I am here today to speak on behalf of the dentists who, like myself, have been intimately involved in the development of the Tri-County Community Dental Clinic (Tri-County Clinic) and I am also here as the dentist representative for the Wisconsin Dental Association (WDA), of which I have been a member for 34 years.

Under the direction of State Representative Steve Wieckert and State Senator Carol Roessler, Senate Bill 243 was drafted at the request of dentists, like myself, who have been intimately involved in the establishment of the Tri-County Clinic. This clinic is being built through the generous donations of local dentists and businesses and will be staffed by volunteer dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants who are willing to provide care to individuals in the Fox River Valley who are either on Medicaid or BadgerCare or who are low income but do not qualify for Medicaid or BadgerCare.

As you may already know, the state's volunteer health care provider liability program provides liability coverage for health care providers (including dentists) who receive no compensation for the care they provide in clinics as long as the primary purpose of the clinic is to treat individuals without insurance. The problem arose when we discovered that Medicaid or BadgerCare are considered to have "insurance" and we realized that our primary patient base will be Medicaid and BadgerCare patients, as well as the uninsured. We did not want to have to turn away the needs of Medicaid and BadgerCare patients in order to be able to offer our volunteer dentists the opportunity to

With the backing of our local dental community and the WDA we embarked on a project to help address this problem in our area. Our initial plan was to run a volunteer dental clinic at the Fox Valley Technical College. However, realizing that Marquette University's School of Dentistry was looking for an externship location, we decided to expand our project and build an 8-chair clinic. This would allow us to treat a larger number of people. Very briefly, we have raised over \$800,000 in donations and pledges and an additional \$225,000 in gifts in kind. We have over 70 dentists, 40 hygienists and 30 dental assistants who have already signed up to volunteer their time. Our building is well under construction and we hope to open our doors and begin seeing patients on Oct. 13, and have the MU dental students start one week later. The Fox Valley Technical College's hygiene and assistant students will be joining us shortly after.

Our project has not been an easy one. However, the dental community and many individuals and groups in our area and the state have been extremely generous. We have estimated that over 16,000 volunteer hours have already been donated. Our project is very necessary. We are very apprehensive that when we open our doors, we will be overwhelmed with emergency dental patients due to the backlog of untreated dental disease in our area. We will do the best that we can. We will begin by treating dental emergencies on people of all ages, then begin with preventive and educational and restorative procedures and eventually move to basic adult services as well. There certainly are other avenues to address this severe dental crisis. However, this is the approach that we decided upon. Passing this bill will help us recruit more volunteer dentists and dental hygienists and therefore allow us to care for more people and provide more necessary services. On behalf of the dentists in my area who have put in numerous hours trying to get this clinic up and running, I encourage you to support this bill. Thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to try to answer any questions that you may have.

*Scheduling
under*

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, CHILDREN,
FAMILIES, AGING AND LONG TERM CARE**

SENATE BILL 243

SENATE BILL 243 DOES 2 THINGS:

**1. IT WILL ADD DENTAL HYGIENISTS TO THE
DEFINITION OF “VOLUNTEER HEALTH CARE
PROVIDER” (CURRENT LAW: PHYSICIANS,
DENTISTS, REGISTERED NURSES, LICENSED
PRACTICAL NURSES, NURSE-MIDWIVES,
OPTOMETRISTS AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS).**

**THIS WILL INCLUDE DENTAL HYGIENISTS AS
PARTICIPANTS IN THE VOLUNTEER HEALTH
CARE PROVIDER PROGRAM.**

**2. IT WILL ALLOW DENTISTS AND DENTAL
HYGIENISTS TO PROVIDE VOLUNTEER
DENTAL SERVICES TO MEDICAID**

**RECIPIENTS WHILE COVERED UNDER THE
STATE'S LIABILITY POLICY.**

**INSUFFICIENT AVAILABILITY OF DENTAL
CARE FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS IS A
PROBLEM THAT HAS FACED WISCONSIN FOR
MANY YEARS. THIS BILL WILL INCREASE THE
OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR LOW-
INCOME PATIENTS TO RECEIVE DENTAL CARE.**

**DENTAL CLINICS NEED THIS LEGISLATION TO
ATTRACT VOLUNTEERS TO WORK. IN
PARTICULAR, RETIRED DENTISTS WHO NO
LONGER CARRY MALPRACTICE INSURANCE.**

**THIS BILL, IF PASSED, WILL DIRECTLY AFFECT
MANY CLINICS STATEWIDE INCLUDING A NEW**

CLINIC IN THE FOX VALLEY. THE TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINIC IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND WHEN COMPLETE WILL SERVE LOW INCOME INDIVIDUALS IN CALUMET, OUTAGAMIE AND WINNEBAGO COUNTIES. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THIS CLINIC WILL SERVE UP TO 30,000 LOW-INCOME PATIENTS.

RETIRED DENTISTS AND DENTAL HYGIENISTS WHO MAY HAVE BEEN DETERRED FROM OFFERING VOLUNTEER DENTAL SERVICES TO LOW-INCOME AND MEDICAID ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WILL NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP CLINICS LIKE THIS ONE SUCCEED.

GOOD ORAL HEALTH IS CRITICAL TO GOOD OVERALL HEALTH. WITHOUT PROPER DENTAL CARE, A PERSON'S HEALTH DETERIORATES, LEADING TO OTHER AND OFTEN MORE SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS. BY CREATING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR DENTISTS TO PROVIDE FREE CARE, WISCONSIN IS REDUCING THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ON WAITING LISTS FOR DENTAL CARE.



DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

1 WEST WILSON STREET
P O BOX 2659
MADISON WI 53701-2659

Jim Doyle
Governor

Helene Nelson
Secretary

State of Wisconsin

Department of Health and Family Services

608-266-1251
FAX: 608-267-2832
www.dhfs.state.wi.us

Testimony Senate Bill 243

Good morning.

My name is Warren LeMay and I am the Chief Dental Officer in the Division of Public Health in the Department of Health and Family Services. On behalf of the Department, I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 243.

Unfortunately, inadequate access to dental care is commonplace among many children and adults in Wisconsin. Those most likely not to receive needed dental services are the vulnerable or high-risk population groups, such as low income families – including those on Medical Assistance, racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants, the developmentally and medically compromised or disabled, the elderly, persons with HIV, and the uninsured. The lack of appropriate oral health care can result in extensive tooth decay, pain, or infection and can cause eating, learning, and speech problems. Many individuals with oral problems such as decayed or missing teeth suffer embarrassment and diminished self-esteem.

The issues related to access to dental care are varied and complex. One of the issues related to increased access is the availability of an appropriate workforce. Dental hygienists are a key provider of oral health services as part of a comprehensive oral health team. In particular, they can provide critical preventive services such as dental sealants and fluoride varnishes to under-served populations. SB 243, if passed, will include dental hygienists under the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program. Including hygienists will have a positive impact on access to dental care by increasing the number of oral health professionals that serve high-risk, under-served populations in various safety net dental programs. For example, this will eliminate an ongoing concern among volunteer dental hygienists providing care in our statewide "Seal a Smile" dental sealant program.

Helene Nelson, Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Services, is concerned about the lack of access to oral health services for many residents in Wisconsin. Addressing this issue is a priority for her administration. This situation has developed over several decades and involves a complex set of problems, institutions, attitudes and financing arrangements. The volunteer dentists and dental hygienists that provide care to the under-served, as mentioned in SB 243, are to be commended for their efforts. However, volunteer providers cannot be expected to provide comprehensive care to all those in need.

To address these challenges, responsibility for improving oral health care must be shared. No single agency, profession, or program can address the complex issues that compromise oral health. Community, legislative and institutional partnerships will be necessary to improve oral

health. Targeted funding increases, both public and private, are necessary if any meaningful changes are to occur in the provision of preventive and treatment oral health services.

Significant opportunities exist for expanding existing health resources. Integrating dental services into primary health care delivery is essential if services are to be made available for under-served populations. This involves moving the focus upstream to prevention-oriented activities. For example, the Department is promoting and providing training to medical personnel in the use of fluoride varnishes for young children.

Dental workforce shortages must be addressed with creative new solutions. Inter-professional disputes and turf wars over scope of practice must be replaced with collaborative efforts to address the oral health needs of Wisconsin's residents.

In closing, I want to thank the Committee for recognizing the access to oral health care issue in Wisconsin and for your efforts to make a difference in Wisconsin's oral health. Thank you.

Testimony of
State Representative Steve Wieckert
Regarding
SB 243 – Volunteer Dental Malpractice Insurance
Before the
**Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long-Term
Care**

September 16, 2003

Chairwoman Roessler, and members of the committee:

Representative Wieckert apologizes for not being here today to testify on this very important legislation. He is on the board of directors of the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority, which is holding a conference elsewhere in the state. He has asked that I read the following testimony for him.

Clearly, one significant challenge Wisconsin faces is the need to provide low-income individuals more opportunities to receive dental care. One way Wisconsin attempts to solve this problem is through the services of volunteer health care providers, including physicians, dentists, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, nurse-midwives, optometrists, and physician assistants. Volunteer health care providers work in conjunction with a nonprofit agency. Together, they apply for approval by the Department of Administration to allow the health care provider to provide healthcare without charge, primarily to low-income persons who are uninsured and are not recipients of Medical Assistance (MA) or Medicare Program benefits.

Despite these efforts to provide basic healthcare services to those in need, the volunteer health care program in Wisconsin still faces challenges. First, dental hygienists cannot be considered volunteer healthcare providers, and therefore cannot provide their services free of charge. Also, many individuals who earn enough income not to receive Medical Assistance still cannot afford to pay for healthcare fees on their own. Finally, when a volunteer healthcare provider is retired, they often cannot afford malpractice insurance. Dentists have long pointed out that the reimbursement rates they receive are so low it is difficult for them to continue to provide care to existing patients or offer services to new patients.

Many legislators have received calls from constituents who could not find a dentist to provide important dental care. SB 243 helps provide a solution.

This legislation, which is being introduced as a companion bill to AB 500 that Representative Wieckert authored, allows retired dentists who volunteer to work in dental clinics to be covered by the state insurance umbrella providing medical malpractice insurance. In this way, the retired dentists would be able to offer their services for free at these dental clinics that charge on a sliding scale for services based on income. This bill also expands the definition of volunteer healthcare provider to include dental hygienists.

This is important for all potential free dental clinics around the state. For example, one clinic in the Fox Valley area anticipates they may serve up to 30,000 low-income patients. However, the clinics need this legislation to protect their retired dentists while these dentists offer their services for free.

There is virtually no additional cost to the state for enacting this legislation. The fiscal note reports that any cost can be absorbed within the agency's budget.

This legislation has been supported by:

- The Wisconsin Dental Association
- The Tri-County Community Dental Clinic
- The Appleton Area School District
- United Way of the Fox Cities

This legislation is one part of the answer in addressing the problem of dental access for low-income individuals. It is our intention, that by providing dental hygienists and other volunteer healthcare providers with medical malpractice insurance and by allowing them to provide services to MA recipients and to charge other recipients on a sliding scale, the state will better be able to provide healthcare to more of those who so desperately need it.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on this bill today.

Halbur, Jennifer

To: Ottman, Tad; Hubbard, Gregory
Subject: AB 37, SB 196, SB 243

Hi,

We exec'd the following bills out of the Senate Health Committee on 9-17-03. Senator Roessler would all of these bills considered priority (SB 243 and SB 196 are on the list we submitted to you).

Thanks!

Jennifer



9-17-03 sb 196
nurses, sb 243 ...

Senate Bill 243...relating to: provision of dental and dental hygiene services to Medical Assistance recipients by a volunteer health care provider.

**BILL
SPONSORS**

Introduced by Senators **Roessler, Brown, Carpenter, Schultz, Zien, Chvala, Darling, Decker, Ellis, S. Fitzgerald, Harsdorf, Lassa, Lazich, Moore, Risser and Robson.**

Cosponsored by Representatives Wieckert, Kaufert, Albers, Berceau, Bies, Coggs, Friske, Gottlieb, Gronemus, Grothman, Gunderson, Hahn, Hundertmark, Jensen, Krawczyk, Kreibich, Ladwig, J. Lehman, M. Lehman, Loeffelholz, Lothian, McCormick, Miller, Musser, Nass, Ott, Owens, Petrowski, Pettis, Plouff, Rhoades, Seratti, Staskunas, Van Roy, Vrakas, J. Wood, Young and Taylor.

BILL HISTORY

Senate Bill 243 was introduced and referred to the Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care on September 10, 2003. A public hearing and executive session were held on September 16, 2003.

The committee recommended SB 243 for passage on a 9- 0 vote.

**LRB
ANALYSIS**

Current Law:

Under the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program in current law, health care services of a volunteer health care provider and a nonprofit agency whose joint application is approved by the Department of Administration must be provided without charge primarily to low-income persons who are uninsured and are not recipients of Medical Assistance (MA) or Medicare Program benefits. Volunteer health care providers include physicians, dentists, registered nurses, licensed

Proposed Changes:

This bill expands the definition of "volunteer health care provider" to include dental hygienists. The bill authorizes a volunteer health care provider who is a dentist or dental hygienist to provide dental or dental hygiene services to MA recipients if the volunteer health care provider is a certified provider of MA services, has received a waiver from the Department of Health and Family Services of the certification requirement, or is not required to be certified. The nonprofit agency with which such a volunteer health care provider is joined in an approved application may charge fees for these services to all persons served, but the agency must accept discounted payments, based on ability to pay, from the persons who are not MA recipients.

Major Impact:

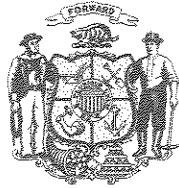
The bill does two things:

1. It will add dental hygienists to the definition of "Volunteer Health Care Provider." This will include dental hygienists as participants in the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program.
2. It will allow dentists and dental hygienists to provide volunteer dental services to Medicaid recipients while covered under the state's liability policy.

**FISCAL
EFFECT**

A fiscal note was not prepared for this bill.

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| SUPPORT | <p>The following people appeared in favor of this bill: (1) Senator Carol Roessler, 18th Senate District; (2) Gary Radloff, Department of Health and Family Services; (3) Warren LeMay, Department of Health and Family Services; (4) Angela Pelnar, Office of Representative Steve Wieckert; and (5) Dr. Tim Brown, Wisconsin Dental Association.</p> <p>The following people registered in favor of this bill: (1) Eric Borgerding, Wisconsin Hospital Association; and (2) Gail Sumi, AARP-Wisconsin.</p> |
| OPPOSITION | No one appeared or registered in opposition to this bill. |
| CONTACT | Jennifer Halbur, Senator Carol Roessler, 266-5300 |
| DATE | September 30, 2003 |



Carol Roessler
STATE SENATOR

Oct. 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2003

Contact: Senator Carol Roessler (888) 736-8720

ROESSLER DENTAL BILL PASSES STATE SENATE

MADISON—Senate Bill 243, authored by Senator Carol Roessler (R-Oshkosh), Chair of the Senate Committee on Health, Families, Children and Long Term Care, and Representative Steve Wieckert (R-Appleton) passed the State Senate today. This bill will allow dentists and dental hygienists to voluntarily provide dental care to Medicaid individuals while covered under the state's liability policy. "Insufficient availability of dental care for low-income individuals is a problem that has faced Wisconsin for many years. This bill will increase the opportunities available for low-income patients to receive dental care," explained Roessler.

Under this proposal, dentists could voluntarily provide dental care at dental clinics that charge patients on a sliding scale based on income, while protected for malpractice. "This is an expansion upon the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program I worked on years ago," said Roessler. "Dental clinics need this legislation to attract volunteers to work. In particular, retired dentists who no longer carry malpractice insurance."

This bill, if passed, will directly affect many clinics statewide including a new clinic in the Fox Valley. "The Tri-County Community Dental Clinic is currently under construction and, when complete later this month, will serve low income individuals in Calumet, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties. It is anticipated that the clinic will serve up to 30,000 low-income patients," said Roessler. "Retired dentists who would have been deterred from offering volunteer dental services to Medicaid eligible individuals will now have the opportunity to help clinics like this one succeed."

“Good oral health is critical to good overall health. Without proper dental care, a person’s health deteriorates, leading to other and often more serious health problems,” said Roessler. “By creating new opportunities for dentists to provide free care, Wisconsin is reducing the number of individuals on waiting lists for dental care.”

###

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Appleton Weather



Temp: 31 °F
Hi: 50 °F
Lo: 26 °F

LOCAL NEWS

Posted Oct. 02, 2003



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Senate backs Wieckert's bioterrorism threats bill

By Ben Jones

P-C Madison bureau chief

MADISON — People who make bioterrorism threats would face stiffer penalties under a bill approved Wednesday by the state Senate.

A bill authored by state Rep. Steve Wieckert, R-Appleton, would make the crime a felony, punishable with up to a \$10,000 fine and 3½ years in prison.

Currently, the crime is a misdemeanor, and a perpetrator faces lesser penalties for making an anthrax threat than a bomb threat.

"That's not right," said Wieckert, who notes that a bioterrorism threat ties up significant law enforcement resources. The bill requires a person who makes a bioterrorism threat to make up those costs.

The bill passed on a voice vote. It now needs the signature of Gov. Jim Doyle to become law.

In other action:

- On a 30-3 vote, the Senate passed a bill authored by state Sen. Carol Roessler, R-Oshkosh, that adds allows employees of school districts and other educational facilities to require that blood they are exposed to be tested for the HIV/AIDS virus.

"Given the increase of violence in schools and the day to day, one on one, contact school district employees have with children, this bill makes common sense," Roessler said in a statement.

The bill now goes to the Assembly.

ADVI



- The Senate passed a bill authored by Roessler and Wieckert that would allow dentists and dental hygienists to voluntarily provide dental care to people with Medicaid coverage while receiving protection from the state's liability policy. It would allow dentists to charge for care on a sliding scale while being covered for malpractice.

"Insufficient availability of dental care for low-income individuals is a problem that has faced Wisconsin for many years. This bill will increase the opportunities available for low-income patients to receive dental care," Roessler said in a statement.

The bill goes to the Assembly.

- On Tuesday, the Senate passed on a 33-0 vote a bill authored by Wieckert that creates state tax exemption for interest on bonds issued by the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority for multifamily and elderly housing projects.

"As our population ages and the baby boom shifts through the age groups, it's more and more important that we have decent quality housing," Wieckert said Wednesday.

The bill needs the governor's signature to become law.

Ben Jones can be reached at 608-255-9256, or by e-mail at bjones@postcrescent.com

[Back to Top](#)

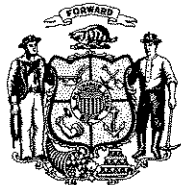


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WISCONSIN STATE SENATE



Carol Roessler
STATE SENATOR

October 6, 2003

Khou Xiong
1711 Wilson Avenue
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Dear Khou,

Given your interest in dental care access issues, I would like to update you on SB 243.

SB 243 adds dental hygienists to those professionals included in the definition of "volunteer healthcare provider." In addition, the bill allows volunteer dentists and dental hygienists to provide dental services to Medicaid recipients while covered under the state's liability plan. This bill will increase the opportunities available for low-income patients to receive dental care.

On September 23, 2003, the Senate Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care Committee, which I chair, passed this bill 9-0. SB 243 passed the full senate on October 1, 2003. The bill will now be referred to an Assembly Committee.

Thank you for your interest in this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol".

CAROL ROESSLER
State Senator
18th Senate District

CR:/jhS:\DOCS\Jennifer\10-6-03 xiong sb 243 ltr.doc

Halbur, Jennifer

From: Asbjornson, Karen
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2003 10:17 AM
To: Halbur, Jennifer
Subject: FW: 2nd AMENDED NOTICE-Assembly Health Public Hearing/Exec. Session - Oct. 14, 2003

Is CR testifying on her bill tomorrow ? SB 243

Karen Asbjornson
Office of Senator Carol Roessler
(608) 266-5300/1-888-736-8720
Karen.Asbjornson@legis.state.wi.us

-----Original Message-----

From: Rep.Underheim
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2003 10:15 AM
To: *Legislative All Assembly; *Legislative All Senate
Subject: 2nd AMENDED NOTICE-Assembly Health Public Hearing/Exec. Session - Oct. 14, 2003

AMENDED NOTICE

Assembly

PUBLIC HEARING & EXECUTIVE SESSION

Committee on Health

The committee will hold a public hearing on the following items at the time specified below:

Tuesday, October 14, 2003
10:00 AM
417 North (GAR Hall)

Assembly Bill 500 (*companion to SB 243 which is listed below*)

Relating to: provision of dental and dental hygiene services to Medical Assistance recipients by a volunteer health care provider.

By Representatives Wieckert, Pettis, Musser, Hahn, Rhoades, Van Roy, Seratti, Berceau, Miller, Gundrum, J. Lehman, Ott, Gunderson, M. Lehman, Owens, Ladwig, Albers, Loeffelholz, Nass, Coggs, Krawczyk, Kaufert, Jensen, Lothian, Grothman, Kreibich, Bies, Staskunas, Hundertmark, Friske, Petrowski, Plouff, Vrakas, Hines and McCormick; cosponsored by Senators Roessler, Brown, Robson, S. Fitzgerald, Zien, Carpenter, Schultz, Risser, Ellis, Decker, Harsdorf, Wirch and Lazich.

Senate Bill 243

Relating to: provision of dental and dental hygiene services to Medical Assistance recipients by a volunteer health care provider.

By Senators Roessler, Brown, Carpenter, Schultz, Zien, Chvala, Darling, Decker, Ellis, S. Fitzgerald, Harsdorf, Lassa, Lazich, Moore, Risser, Robson, Hansen, Wirch, Kedzie and Panzer; cosponsored by Representatives Wieckert, Kaufert, Albers, Berceau, Bies, Coggs, Friske, Gottlieb, Gronemus, Grothman, Gunderson, Hahn, Hundertmark, Jensen, Krawczyk, Kreibich, Ladwig, J. Lehman, M. Lehman, Loeffelholz,

Lothian, McCormick, Miller, Musser, Nass, Ott, Owens, Petrowski, Pettis, Plouff, Rhoades, Seratti, Staskunas, Van Roy, Vrakas, J. Wood, Young and Taylor.

Assembly Bill 560

Relating to: use of federal registration numbers required for prescribers of controlled substances and providing a penalty.

By Representatives Vukmir, Underheim, Wasserman, Gielow, Schneider, Hahn, Van Roy, M. Lehman, Owens, Powers, Ainsworth, Huebsch, D. Meyer, Gundrum, Ward, Balow, Suder, Montgomery, Gottlieb, Nass, Cullen, Kreibich, Gronemus, Hundertmark, Petrowski, Pettis, Stone, Hines, Friske, Towns, Bies and Townsend; cosponsored by Senators Kanavas and Darling.

Assembly Bill 397

Relating to: chelation therapy.

By Representatives Albers, Seratti and Van Roy; cosponsored by Senator Schultz.

***An executive session may be held on AB 405, AB 500, SB 243 or SB 196.*

Representative Gregg Underheim
Chair

October 13, 2003

Representative Gregg Underheim, Chair
11 North State Capitol
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Chairman Underheim,

I strongly encourage you to support two bills that are before you today: Senate Bill 243, relating to dental and dental hygiene services provided to Medical Assistance recipients and Senate Bill 196, relating to authorizing a hospice nurse to make a pronouncement of death.

Senate Bill 243

Senate bill 243 does two things:

- 1) It adds dental hygienists to the definition of "volunteer health care provider." This will include dental hygienists as participants in the volunteer health care provider program.
- 2) It will allow dentists and dental hygienists to provide volunteer dental services to participants in the medical assistance program, while covered under the state's liability policy.

Insufficient availability of dental care for low-income individuals is a problem that has faced Wisconsin for many years. SB 243 will increase the opportunities available for low-income patients to receive dental care.

If this bill passes, it will directly affect many clinics statewide, including a new clinic in the Fox Valley. The Tri-County Community Dental Clinic is currently under construction and when complete will serve low-income individuals in Calumet, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties. It is anticipated that this clinic will serve up to 30,000 low-income patients.

Retired dentists who may have been deterred from offering volunteer dental services to low-income and Medicaid eligible individuals will now have the opportunity to help clinics like this one succeed.

Carol - Here is a draft
letter to send
Assembly Health
Committee members.
Let me know if you
would like changes.
Thanks -
Jennifer

Great
Let's go!

Senate Bill 196

Senate Bill 196 authorizes a hospice nurse in a hospice that is directly involved with the care of a hospice patient to pronounce the date, time and place of the patient's death.

Currently, when a home hospice patient passes away at home, the hospice nurse makes the determination that the person has died and then must call the physician to ask him or her to pronounce death.

Current law should be changed. The call to a physician to pronounce death is not needed in a hospice situation. Hospice nurses have the knowledge necessary to determine if a person has died and should be able to pronounce death.

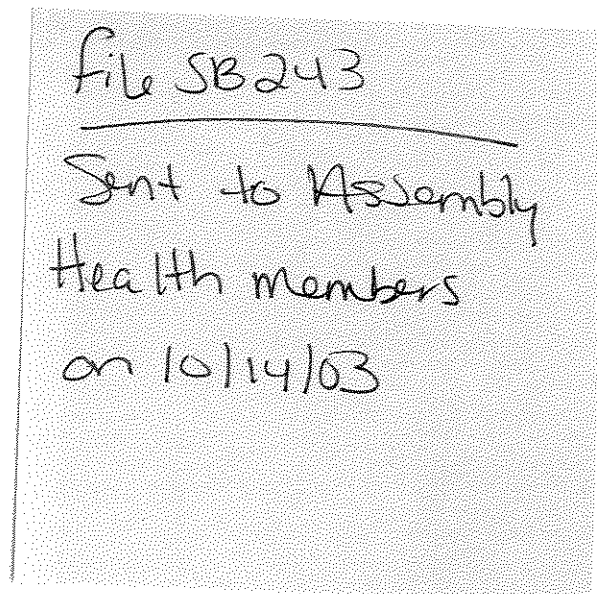
SB 196 would simply allow a hospice nurse to pronounce the patient's death. SB 196 does not change current law relating to the certification of death. This would remain with the physician.

Thank you for allowing me to share my views with you on SB 243 and SB 196. I hope that you will vote to support of these bills today.

Sincerely,

CAROL ROESSLER
State Senator
18th Senate District

CR:/jhs:/DOCS/Jennifer/talking points/10-13-03 sb243 sb 196 assembly health.doc



File SB243
Sent to Assembly
Health members
on 10/14/03



To: Jennifer Halbur – Sen. Carol Roessler

From: Mara Brooks, Wisconsin Dental Association

Re: Wasserman Amendment to SB 243/AB 500 (Volunteer DDS Liability Bill)

Date: Monday, October 20, 2003

During the Assembly Health Committee hearing on AB 500/SB 243, Rep. Wasserman asked what would happen if an actively practicing dentist (who also carries his own liability coverage) were to sign up for the state's program and have a claim filed against the dentist for work performed while volunteering. Rep. Wasserman asked which plan would be the plan of coverage in that situation and he was specifically concerned about whether or not a trial attorney could sue both the state and the dentist's own liability plan. Rep. Wasserman suggested that this be fixed --- that an amendment be added that clarified which plan (the dentist's own plan or the state plan) was covering the provider when the provider was volunteering at the clinic. Mr. Sweet responded that the statutory language does not currently clarify that issue.

There was some sidebar discussion between Rep. Wasserman, Chair Underheim and Mr. Sweet, which indicated that they would work on this as a floor amendment but would pass the bill out of committee just the same. After the members of the Committee approved the bill unanimously, Rep. Wasserman, Rep. Wieckert, Dr. Brown and I all met out in the hallway to discuss the process for the Wasserman amendment. Rep. Wasserman said he'd like to have it clarified that any volunteer health care providers will be considered to be under the state's liability plan (regardless of whether or not they have their own liability carrier) as long as the volunteer is has applied for (and received) the state's volunteer health care liability coverage.

WDA is fine with the concept behind this amendment but has not yet seen the specific language that is being proposed. It is my understanding that the Wasserman and Wieckert offices are working with legal counsel to get an amendment drafted as quickly as possible so the amendment can be taken up on the floor of the Assembly whenever the bill is scheduled for a floor vote (hopefully soon).

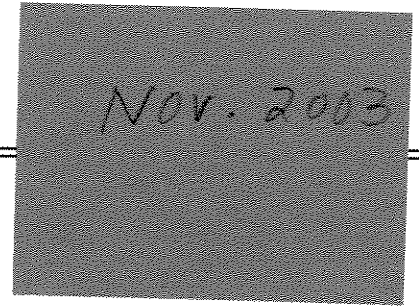
If the amendment passes on the Assembly floor, the bill (as amended) will have to be returned to the Senate floor for review and approval prior to being sent to the Governor. Given the timeline for the opening of the clinic (this week), it will help the clinic a great deal if this bill can make it through both houses of the legislature and on to the Governor's desk before the holiday adjournment.

If you have questions please call me at #250-3442. Thank you.



STEVE WIECKERT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



CHAIRMAN

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE
ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

For immediate Release

Tuesday, November 11, 2003

For more information contact:

Steve Wieckert (888) 534-0057; (920) 731-3000

Tim Brown, D.D.S., President, Tri County Dental Clinic (920) 729-5500

Free and Reduced Dental Care For Low-Income Families

Bill Debated In Assembly Wednesday

Citizens throughout Wisconsin have long had difficulty in finding dental care for those with low-income families.

AB 500, which is being debated on the Assembly floor Wednesday, allows retired dentists to volunteer their services at free dental clinics and have their medical malpractice insurance through the state. This is similar to other provisions, allowing the same coverage for other types of healthcare providers. To comply with all federal and state Medicaid provisions, several months of meetings and modifications to the bill took place.

In one clinic alone in the Fox Valley it is estimated that this clinic would be able to assist over 30,000 individuals with dental care. This legislation would cover free dental clinics throughout the state.

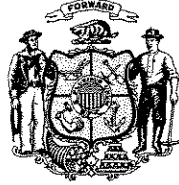
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IDEALS, PRINCIPLES, PATRIOTISM

STATE CAPITOL OFFICE: ROOM 16 WEST • P.O. BOX 8953 • MADISON, WI 53708-8953 • (608) 266-3070 • (608) 282-3657 FAX • Rep.Wieckert@legis.state.wi.us

DISTRICT 57 OFFICE: 3033 W. SPENCER STREET • APPLETON, WI 54914 • (920) 731-3000 • FAX: (920) 731-2999

COMMITTEES: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT • GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS • HEALTH • HOUSING • INSURANCE



Carol Roessler
STATE SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 13, 2003

Contact: Senator Carol Roessler (888) 736-8720

**ROESSLER BILL TO INCREASE DENTAL CARE AVAILABILITY PASSES
LEGISLATURE**

MADISON— Senator Carol Roessler (R-Oshkosh) introduced Senate Bill 243 to allow dentists and dental hygienists to voluntarily provide dental care to low income individuals while covered under the state's liability policy. "Insufficient availability of dental care for low-income individuals is a problem that has faced Wisconsin for many years. This bill will increase the opportunities available for low-income patients to receive dental care," explained Roessler.

Senate Bill 243 passed the state Senate on October 1, 2003 and passed the state Assembly yesterday.

Under this proposal, dentists could voluntarily provide dental care at dental clinics that charge patients on a sliding scale based on income, while protected for malpractice. "This is an expansion upon the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program I worked on years ago," said Roessler. "Dental clinics need this legislation to attract volunteers to work. In particular, retired dentists who no longer carry malpractice insurance."

This legislation will directly affect many clinics statewide including a new clinic in the Fox Valley. "The Tri-County Community Dental Clinic is a new facility that serves low income individuals in Calumet, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties. The clinic opened on October 22nd and has already registered 600 patients and treated 200. It is anticipated

that this clinic will serve up to 30,000 low-income patients,” said Roessler. “Retired dentists who may have been deterred from offering volunteer dental services to low-income and Medicaid eligible individuals will now have the opportunity to help clinics like this one succeed.”

“Good oral health is critical to good overall health. Without proper dental care, a person’s health deteriorates, leading to other and often more serious health problems,” said Roessler. “By creating new opportunities for dentists to provide free care, Wisconsin is reducing the number of individuals on waiting lists for dental care.”

Senate Bill 243 is now on the Governor’s desk awaiting his signature.

If you are in need of dental care and live in Calumet, Outagamie or Winnebago County, you may qualify for services provided by the Tri County Community Dental Clinic. All patients must qualify for BadgerCare or Medicaid or have an income below 200% of the federal poverty level. **To register for services at the clinic, call 920-882-5500.**

###

Yes
send

Press 7

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 2, 2003

Contact: Senator Carol Roessler (888) 736-8720

ROESSLER DENTAL BILL SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

MADISON—Senate Bill 243, authored by Senator Carol Roessler (R-Oshkosh), Chair of the Senate Committee on Health, Families, Children and Long Term Care, and Representative Steve Wiecek (R-Appleton) was signed by Governor Jim Doyle today. This new law will allow dentists and dental hygienists to voluntarily provide dental care to Medicaid individuals while covered under the state's liability policy. "Insufficient availability of dental care for low-income individuals is a problem that has faced Wisconsin for many years. This Act will increase the opportunities available for low-income patients to receive dental care," explained Roessler.

Under the Act, dentists can voluntarily provide dental care at dental clinics that charge patients on a sliding scale based on income, while protected for malpractice. "This is an expansion upon the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program I worked on years ago," said Roessler. "Dental clinics will hopefully be able to more easily attract volunteers to work. In particular, retired dentists who no longer carry malpractice insurance."

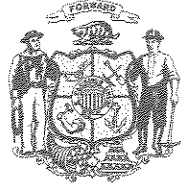
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Dec. 2003

“Good oral health is critical to good overall health. Without proper dental care, a person’s health deteriorates, leading to other and often more serious health problems,” said Roessler. “By creating new opportunities for dentists to provide free care, Wisconsin is reducing the number of individuals on waiting lists for dental care.”

If you are in need of dental care and live in Calumet, Outagamie or Winnebago County, you may qualify for services provided by the Tri County Community Dental Clinic. All patients must qualify for BadgerCare or Medicaid or have an income below 200% of the federal poverty level. **To register for services at the clinic, call 920-882-5500.**

###



Carol Roessler
STATE SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2003

Contact: Senator Carol Roessler (888) 736-8720

ROESSLER DENTAL BILL SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

MADISON—Senate Bill 243, authored by Senator Carol Roessler (R-Oshkosh), Chair of the Senate Committee on Health, Families, Children and Long Term Care, and Representative Steve Wieckert (R-Appleton) was signed by Governor Jim Doyle today. This new law will allow dentists and dental hygienists to voluntarily provide dental care to Medicaid individuals while covered under the state's liability policy. "Insufficient availability of dental care for low-income individuals is a problem that has faced Wisconsin for many years. This Act will increase the opportunities available for low-income patients to receive dental care," explained Roessler.

Under the Act, dentists can voluntarily provide dental care at dental clinics that charge patients on a sliding scale based on income, while protected for malpractice. "This is an expansion upon the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program I worked on years ago," said Roessler. "Dental clinics will hopefully be able to more easily attract volunteers to work. In particular, retired dentists who no longer carry malpractice insurance."

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If you are in need of dental care and live in Calumet, Outagamie or Winnebago County, you may qualify for services provided by the Tri County Community Dental Clinic. All patients must qualify for BadgerCare or Medicaid or have an income below 200% of the federal poverty level. **To register for services at the clinic, call 920-882-5500.**

###

SB243

12-4-03

KFI2

DENTAL CARE

Governor Doyle signs into law a bill authored by an area legislator that opens up new avenues for the poor to take care of their dental health problems. Senator Carol Roessler says the new law allows dentists, dental hygienists and retired dentists to voluntarily provide dental care to low income patients. Those volunteer practitioners will be protected through the State's liability policy, so a retired dentist could volunteer services without having to pick up malpractice insurance. Roessler says patients will be charged on a sliding scale. She says good dental health is important to one's overall health. Roessler says the new law will benefit clinics like the Tri-County Community Dental Clinic that already serves low-income patients in Calumet, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties.